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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR 9 July 1951

SUBJECT Views and Activities of Foreign Office Personnel

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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A

REPORT NO.

1. Foreign Minister Georg Dertinger made the following remarks on 3 July 1951 in a discussion of the Korean situation: "The Russians have made a 180-degree turn. Something will certainly come of the current negotiations in Korea, and I believe that the Russians will even go to Washington for a four-power conference."
2. There seems to be increasing reason to expect that Dertinger will be removed from his post within a few months. He himself is extremely despondent, and is drinking even more heavily than usual. He is quoted as saying privately: "Why was I such an idiot as to become Foreign Minister? I should have stuck to journalism. Every day brings new difficulties for me; I have nothing to say in my own Ministry. Besides, the few sessions of the Volkskammer which are held are farces."
- 25X1C 3. [REDACTED] in the Volkskammer has stated that the CDU thinks Dertinger can hold his position as Foreign Minister only about three months longer. Mörcke (SED), editor of the periodical Land und Forst, remarked recently that Dertinger is no longer a power in the CDU, and predicted that he will be shelved soon because he has completely failed in popularizing the German unity campaign in West Germany.
4. Franz Riedel, the East German press attaché in Warsaw, predicts that the cabinet of the DDR will be reorganized in October 1951, and that both Dertinger and Minister President Otto Grotewohl will be branded as failures and removed from office, while Walter Ulbricht will become Minister President. Riedel asserted that the results of the recent plebiscite or remilitarization were falsified for public consumption, but that the Kremlin knows what the real results were.
5. State Secretary Anton Ackermann frequently overrules or ignores Dertinger in the conduct of the affairs of the Foreign Ministry. A recent instance of this practice is the refusal of Ackermann to accede to Dertinger's wish to retain Käthe Zinsser (CDU) as his personal Referentin instead of Helene Berner (SED).
6. The CDU employees of the Foreign Ministry are now convinced that the CDU in East Germany is about to collapse, and are seeking secure positions for themselves when this event does occur. Dertinger also, at a drinking party in honor of the Chinese Communists, compared the CDU to "a few rabbits in the garden which the landlord could kill off at any time"; Ackermann agreed that this was an apt comparison.

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7. The session of the Kleine Kommission of the Foreign Ministry on 8 June was devoted almost exclusively to the flight of the British Foreign Office employees Burgess and Maclean. Dertinger later stated that he had been informed by Karlshorst that the two men had gone to the Soviet Union.
8. At a closed press conference in Weimar on 11 June, Werner Eggerath, Minister President of Thuringia, asked the press to explain to the masses the necessity of reintroducing the rationing of grain and potatoes. It is understood that two thirds of the Thuringian grain crop is exported to the USSR and Czechoslovakia.
9. In a letter of 13 June, Dertinger and his wife were invited to spend a vacation in Ulan Bator in the Mongolian People's Republic.
10. Helene Berner, of the Foreign Ministry staff, spent a six weeks' vacation in a Moscow sanatorium, from which she returned on 19 June. She said she had not been permitted to visit a spa in the Caucasus, as she had wished to do, because the whole southern part of the country was sealed off for strategic reasons.
11. Gerhard Eisler, head of the Office of Information, is now forbidden to deal with diplomats accredited to the DDR government. All contacts must be directed through the Foreign Ministry.
12. A law is being prepared by the East German government to prohibit employees from resigning, while the state is to be allowed to discharge them on two weeks' notice.

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